

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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MAN CONVICTED OF ROBBING LIBERTY BANK IN ALTON, ILLINOIS

Edward E. McNally, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on February 7, 2006, **MARIO L. KAISER**, age 32, of Alton, Illinois, pled guilty to a one-count indictment charging him with robbing the Liberty Bank in Alton, Illinois, at the conclusion of the first day of his jury trial in United States District Court in East St. Louis.

According to the evidence and documents presented to the court during the trial and at the time of the plea, the bank robbery took place on December 27, 2004. During the robbery, the Defendant threatened that he had a gun, and took \$2,750 from the Liberty Bank. Physical evidence was recovered following the execution of a search warrant at the Defendant's mother's house four days after the robbery.

KAISER faces a penalty of up to 20 year's imprisonment, a fine of up to \$250,000, or both, and a term of at least 2 years supervised release. He is scheduled to be sentenced on May 8, 2006.

Evidence to support the prosecution was gathered in an investigation conducted by the FBI and the Alton Police Department. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Andrew Simonson and Mark Niemeyer.